

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1214

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Randy Speed on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Randy Speed is one such estimable person, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, having served the flying public for more than forty years as an aviation pilot, Mr. Speed will soon be taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Randy Speed took his first flying lesson at Pete's Flying Service in Brownfield, Texas, at the age of sixteen; from that point on, flying was all he ever wanted to do; and

WHEREAS, to help pay for his flight lessons, Mr. Speed began working at Pete's Flying Service, and by June of 1973, he had completed his first solo flight; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Brownfield High School in Texas, Randy Speed attended Texas Tech University before moving to Midland–Odessa, Texas, where he became an instructor for Hank's Flight Center and later flew corporate charters for Rad Cagle; and

WHEREAS, during the 1980s, Mr. Speed founded his own business called Andalé Charter Flights and later flew for Texas oil magnate Bruce Street for a period of four years; and

WHEREAS, Randy Speed became a commercial pilot in 1989, when he was hired by Trans World Airlines (TWA); and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by his peers, Mr. Speed was presented with both the Award of Excellence by TWA and the Superior Airmanship Award by the Allied Pilots Association (APA) during a banquet hosted by TWA and the APA on August 16, 1995; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career as a pilot, Randy Speed attained the rank of captain and was certified to fly a multitude of aircraft, including the L-1011, the MD-80, the wide-body 757 and 767, the narrow-body 323 Airbus, and the Gulfstream G450; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2016, Mr. Speed was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer; the prognosis for recovery was dire, and a return to commercial flight seemed nearly impossible; and

WHEREAS, despite the odds, Randy Speed was cleared to fly by the Federal Aviation Administration nearly three years later and was called back to service as a pilot for American Airlines; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving the needs of his community, Mr. Speed recently signed on as a volunteer pilot to transport patients to medical facilities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Randy Speed has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his estimable career, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the flying public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Randy Speed upon the occasion of his retirement, extending our deepest appreciation for his many years of service as a commercial pilot and our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.